



## PASTORAL CARE POLICY

Pastoral Care at Good Samaritan Catholic College is the total climate of care that exists within the College. It is the concern that the College has for each individual to develop academically, socially and spiritually. It is reflected in the Christian ethos of the community and individuals caring for and respecting each other. It includes a structure where teachers and other professionals are responsible for the spiritual and emotional well being of all and where strong relationships are established between teachers, students and their families.

### **At Good Samaritan Catholic College we believe:**

- An authentic Catholic school is founded on the person of Jesus Christ and reflects the Gospel teachings, especially in relation to faith, hope, love, forgiveness, justice and freedom.
- An authentic Catholic school reflects the love of God within its community.
- All individuals within our community bring gifts to our shared journey.
- Every individual is worthy of respect and should be treated with dignity.
- Each person is on a life-long journey which is a continuous process which reaches beyond schooling.

### **Therefore we will:**

- Develop programs and procedures in accordance with CEO Sydney "Pastoral care of students in Catholic Schools" document.
- Design and implement structures that reflect and allow our community to experience the Gospel teachings especially faith, hope, love, forgiveness, justice and freedom.
- Create defined roles for all members of our community.
- Establish student management procedures which help students value themselves and to experience well-being.
- Foster communication with the wider community, especially parents, businesses, local parishes and ex-students.
- Foster an environment where in individual rights and responsibilities can be acknowledged and respected.
- Design and implement a Pastoral Care program which aims at developing each person to their potential: spiritually, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

### **Student Management Guidelines**

In accordance with the Pastoral Care Policy provisions, Good Samaritan Catholic College aims to:

- Establish student management procedures which empower students to value themselves and to experience well-being and success.
- Foster an environment where in individual rights, responsibilities and talents can be acknowledged and respected.
- Operate under the Child Protection Code of Professional Standards for Employees in Catholic Schools.

## **Pastoral Care Program**

In accordance with CEO "Pastoral Care of students in Catholic Schools" policy. " Pastoral programs represent a specific and planned means of helping students to value themselves and to experience wellbeing." The college, therefore, provides opportunities in ensuring each person is developed to their potential: spiritually, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

The pastoral care program at Good Samaritan Catholic College is designed with vertical house experiences combined with year level horizontal structured lessons designed to meet the specific needs of students at that level.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Pastoral Care System is exercised through the mission and vision of Good Samaritan Catholic College, its executive team, staff, clergy and parents. With the guidance of the Year and House Pastoral Care Coordinators and support of all staff members this vision is enhanced by:

1. The Gospel Values that are reflected in the compassion of the Good Samaritan Story.
2. The Pastoral Care Policy of the Sydney Catholic Education Office.
3. The future development of a Pastoral Care Policy and Programs of Good Samaritan Catholic College.

## **Pastoral Care Teachers**

Pastoral Care teachers have both an administrative and more importantly a pastoral care role in dealing with students. Pastoral Care Teachers are the first link in the chain of pastoral care for the students. The Pastoral Care Teachers encourage a healthy spirit of compassion within their group. They recognise the achievements of the group and individual students, as well as identifying students who may require special assistance. Regular contact with their Year Coordinator is maintained in order that all concerned are aware of actions taken in relation to individual students.

### **They display their care for their pastoral class by:**

- Guiding students in administrative and pastoral issues.
- Supporting students by listening and advising.
- Guiding students to develop self-discipline.
- Being aware of students' progress.
- Dealing with pastoral and disciplinary matters appropriately.
- Maintaining contact with students' parents through the appropriate means available to them.

## **Year Coordinators**

The Year Coordinators contribute to the development of the College as a faith community. They assist with the nurturing of positive human relations in the College community. They develop cohesion within the College community, thus contributing to the effective leadership and administration of the College.

They are responsible for the overall growth and development of all students in their care.

**They achieve this by:**

- Dealing with students individually and as a group at assemblies, in a positive and growth promoting manner, at all times displaying respect for the individual.
- Ensuring that new students to the College are made feel welcome and settle easily into the College.
- Maintaining regular contact with and general monitoring of all students, especially those with special needs or at risk.
- Referring students with special needs to the appropriate professional contacts.
- Keeping in contact with Pastoral Care Teachers to ensure consistency and fairness throughout the College.

**College Counsellor**

The role of the College counsellors is a pastoral one of service to the whole of the Good Samaritan Community.

The College counsellors would aim to provide a climate in conjunction with the College executive, Year Co-ordinators and pastoral care teachers, that would promote a friendly and respectful relationship between staff, students and parents, based on respect for individuals and the need for self discipline.

The College counsellors involve themselves in the counselling of students in need. The basis of this ministry is the Christian notion of “seeing the face of Jesus in everyone”. The ministry (role) is evolving in its nature and so must remain open to change, in order to meet new needs.

**Community**

The college recognises the life of the students beyond school. In support of the CEO Vision and Mission Statement (2006) the college seeks to establish strong ties with the community beyond Good Samaritan Catholic College. As part of the college’s commitment to our students we work towards strengthening the following relationships:

- Local church and other educational agencies.
- The active partnership between home, parish, school and community.
- The partnership between teachers, parents, clergy and the wider community.
- Liaison with relevant members of the local community – businesses, employment opportunities and tertiary advice.

The college works towards these aims through:

- Availability of staff to parents.
- Promotion of needs within the community.
- Building a relationship with relevant local agencies.
- Encouraging close ties with local parishes, priests and feeder schools.

## **REFERENCE**

In all aspects of Pastoral Care at Good Samaritan Catholic College, reference is made to the following documents:

- College Mission Statement
- College Student Management Guidelines
- “Sydney Catholic Schools – Towards 2010” CEO Sydney 2005
- “Pastoral Care of students in Catholic Schools” CEO Sydney 2003
- “Vision Statement for Catholic Schools” CEO Sydney 2006
- “Child Protection Code of Professional Standards for Employees in Catholic Schools” – CEO Sydney 2004
- Guidelines for Resolving Concerns and Complaints at School